21: Burnet T-5 (1818-1819) 1954 NO6 Comanche NO6
Texas

175 [ca-1818]
262 imagine, these beef chips are neither very palatable nor
alimental after this operation; but they are still meat, and
175 meat is always desirable to a carniverous savage. The bene-
ficient author of nature has given them an inexhaustible
317 supply of salt. They procure this excellent fossil from a
saline near the sources of the Rio Brazos, where it is indur-
ated by natural evaporation, into masses of different dimen-
sions. When pulverized, it is of a beautiful whiteness, not
175 inferior to our best table salt. But owing to their roving
263 habits, the Indians are frequently destitute of this healthful
and savoury ingredient in animal food, and eat their meat
for months together without seasoning of any kind. They
do not consider this privation as a very serious matter.

175 They make a kind of bread of the pods of the locust
262 tree, which grows abundantly throughout their range. These
pods possess a small portion of sacchrine matter which ren-
ders the meal cohesive and gives it an agreeable though
somewhat insipid taste; but in substance it is about as edible
as saw-dust, which it resembles in appearance. The Peccan
tree grows luxuriantly on all their water courses, and the
delightful nut it affords, together with black and red hawes,
prickly-pear apples, and some other spontaneous fruits, and
a few excellent roots, eke out the scanty subsistence of these
people, during the absence of their favorite Buffaloes.

175 Some of the lower or southern villages make an annual
22 visit to the Whacoes (a small tribe located on the Brazos)
[439] and traffic horses for beans, melons, and corn. But owing to
[261] their frequent migrations, they are not able to transport a
permanent stock of these articles; and very soon after re-
turning from the corn feast of their more provident neigh-
bours, they relapse into their habitual alternations of feast
or famine.

175 But Providence seems to have provided them with some
165 natural indemnities against the physical evils that might be
supposed incidental to their irregular and versatile manner
[164] of life. Notwithstanding their frequent and painful priva-
tions, they are subject to few diseases, and exhibit many in-
stances of remarkable longevity. Men, whose furrowed

23: Cabello y Robles G-3 (1778-1786) 1961
NO6 Comanche NO6
Eastern Comanche

[c.a. 1786]

175 customarily situated across the river that some call the
131 *Colorado* (Red) and others the *Rio de la Empalizada* which
133 flows to Natchitoches in order to empty into the Mississippi;
from their settlements [on the Red River] they move about
to the headwaters of the Brazos de Dios, which are one hun-
dred leagues apart from one another; in this interval they
are accustomed to make their residence at a place they call
175 the *Gran Salina* [Large Salt]. There they provide them-
439 selves with this commodity in order to barter with the
317 *Taboayazes* [*Tacvayas*] and *Guachitas* [*Wichitas*] who,
because they lack salt, esteem it very much.

175 FIFTH: What Are the Names of the Captains That
622 Govern Them?

624 The names of the captains that I have been able to acquire
[643] notice of are in the First Class, El Cota de Maya, or Camisa
de Fierro[1]; the second, Cabeza Rapada. Those of the Sec-
ond Class are El Lobito, El Sorrillo, Guiracaraco, El Gua-
guanguas, La Boca Partida, El Español, El Surdo, and
El Manco. I have not been able to inquire the names of the
other three or four who are of the second class.

SIXTH. What Distinguished Those in Authority?

[643] The chiefs with the most authority and following known
among the Eastern Comanche Indians are in the first class,
el Camisa de Fierro, or Cota de Maya, and in the second,
la Cabeza Rapada, there being ten or twelve that are
between those of the second class and subject to the two
aforesaid [first class chiefs].

175 SEVENTH: How Did They Gain Their Authority, by
643 Election or by Inheritance?

623 The command and superiority established by the two
555

[113] 1. For further details about Cota de Maya (Coat of Mail), also called
[551] Ecuaracapa (Leather Cape), whose Comanche name was Contatanacapara,
see Alfred B. Thomas, *Forgotten Frontiers* (Norman, 1932), 295-325.